GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:558
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
CONVERSION OF TRACK INTO STANDARD GAUGE
AMBATI BRAHMANAIAH

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have any plans to convert all the existing track into Standard Gauge (1435 mm.);

(b) if so, whether all the modern technological advances in Railways have been made using Standard Gauge as the benchmark;

(c) whether Indian Railways have deliberately ignored the potential of conversion to the universally accepted Standard gauge;

(d) if so, the reasons for not resorting to Standard gauge in track conversion schemes; and

(e) the steps proposed to review the existing policies on track conversion?

Answer

MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR)

(a) to (e) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 558 BY SH BRAHMANAIAH TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.8.2001 REGARDING CONVERSION OF TRACK INTO STANDARD GAUGE

(a) : No, Sir.

(b) : Does not arise.

(c) & (d) : Indian Railways is a vast system running on Broad Gauge, Metre Gauge and Narrow Gauge. Conversiorof the system to Standard Gauge is neither feasible nor at all necessary.

(e) : Conversion of Metre Gauge and Narrow Gaugelines into Broad Gauge is taken up on considerations of viability, operational requirements and on national and strategic considerations and subject to availability of resources. Individual Gauge Conversion projects are regularly reviewed, on a case-to-case basis.